

The Rubbish Resource

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RECYCLING WINS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE!



Photo of Marghie Seymour & Paul Freitas

As a finale to the 1999 America Recycles Day in New Hampshire (ARD-NH), a special awards ceremony and prize drawing was held at the Plymouth Recycling Facility on December 3 in Plymouth. There were many winners before, during, and after the ceremony.

Congratulations to the town of Plymouth and the town of Littleton for winning first and second prize, respectively, in the first annual "Best Recycling town in New Hampshire Contest." Paul Freitas, Manager of the Plymouth Recycling Facility, proudly received a \$7,000 check at the December 3 ceremony from Marghie Seymour, Executive Director, New Hampshire the Beautiful (NHtB). (See photo) Sponsored by NHtB, the contest was designed to honor ARD-NH 1999 and to recognize the efforts of New Hampshire city and town recycling programs. Plymouth's program was chosen as the winning combination of a comprehensive NH municipal recycling program. Second prize of \$3,000 was later awarded to Tony Ilacqua, Solid Waste Manager, Littleton Transfer Station.

Winners were also drawn for the ARD-NH State contest prizes from over 1500 pledge cards submitted from schools, municipalities and businesses statewide. The Northeast Resource Recovery Association's "1999 Recycler of the Year," Tony Ilacqua, held the honor of drawing the first and second prize winners from a recycling bin packed full with pledges.

There was more excitement for Plymouth when Hilary Coonan of Plymouth was drawn as the first prize winner of a kayak made from recycled HDPE plastic bottles donated by Walden Paddlers of Concord, MA, and Public Service Company of NH. Hilary filled out her pledge card during ARD-NH celebrations at the Plymouth Elementary School. Timothy Roukey of Henniker won second prize of an Earth Machine backyard composter donated by EPS Corporation. In addition, members of the audience drew the names of 40 third prize winners of tote bags made of 100% recycled PETE bottles donated by Enviro-Tote of Bedford, NH.

Due to everyone's contributions, New Hampshire's third annual ARD-NH was once again a success. The more people hear about recycling and are encouraged to make a difference by recycling or buying recycled, the more recycling wins. Thanks to those of you that helped, and see you at ARD-NH, 2000.

All pledges were then "recycled" into the national drawing held in Washington, DC on December 20. Winners include a fifth grade student from California winning a Walt Disney World vacation and a fourth grade student from Illinois winning a remanufactured computer for himself and 25 more for his school. A drawing is held every other year for the famous "Green Dream House," a four-bedroom home made of recycled materials. The drawing will be held this year in December, so there is still time for a NH winner.

Congratulations are also due to the McDonough Elementary School in Manchester for winning the ARD-NH School Recycling Contest. Sponsored by Walmart and DES, the school's prize includes two entertaining performances about recycling called "Garbage is My Bag."

New Hampshire municipalities, schools, libraries, and businesses were also winners in ARD-NH, celebrating during the weeks up to and including November 15, with over 38 events statewide encouraging buying recycled and recycling activities. Events included recycling displays, buying recycled product promotions, recycling collections, coordinated press releases, household hazardous waste collections, contests, and more!

OPERATOR TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification (for the operators of transfer stations, recycling centers and landfills) will be held March 15-16, 2000. For more information, contact **Patricia Hannon** at **603-271-2928** or by e-mail at phannon@des.state.nh.us.

**New Hampshire DES, Waste Management Division,
6 Hazen Dr., Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-2900**

TARGETING SOLID WASTE ISSUES OF CONCERN



Many of the concerns about solid waste management in New Hampshire, such as competition, costs and long term options, are at the forefront of discussion in a couple of key bodies. First, the Governor's Solid Waste Task Force is moving full steam ahead and has had three meetings to date. The task force has formed three subcommittees to tackle some of the top concerns expressed by the group, namely changes in the solid waste industry, disposal options, and cost increases. These concerns became principal as a result of a recent survey distributed to the task force. The subcommittees are currently forming an outline for addressing each topic and it is expected that recommendations will come in late spring. Are you interested in the summary of responses or information on the status of the group as a whole? Just visit our web site at <http://des.state.nh.us/pcas/> and view the activities to date, member listing and future meeting schedules.

But this isn't the only forum in which solid waste issues are being tackled. We have an extremely busy legislative session with several bills destined to impact solid waste management in NH. Many of these bills, such as the solid waste surcharge on trash, are generating debate throughout the state. Recently, the Northeast Resource Recovery Association held public meetings in different communities, where some of you added valuable input on the "surcharge bill". A sampling of the bills in the current session include:

- SB 388** Surcharge on Trash (Sen. R. Russman).
- HB 1395** Advanced Disposal Fee on Universal Wastes (Rep. G. Musler)
- HB 1417** Landfill Moratoriums on Recyclable Materials (Rep. G. Musler).
- SB 411** Returnable Beverage Container Law (Sen. M. Fernald).
- HB 1344** Expansion of the Used Oil Grants Program (Rep. G. Musler).
- HB 1418** Relative to Mercury in Products

Additionally, there are several ways to keep abreast of each bill's status. First, you can always contact one of us at PCAS for an update (271-2900) or you can once again go to our website for the most recent text versions of the bill. There is also a wonderful legislative site at: www.state.nh.us/gencourt/iegcourt.html where you can find all information pertaining to any bill, its sponsor, and even the hearing dates. Remember, that this is your legislature and that you can be involved.